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09/872,612	06/01/2001	Giorgio Boesi	6502-1514	2269
23644 7590 01/10/2008 BARNES & THORNBURG LLP P.O. BOX 2786 CHICAGO, IL 60690-2786			EXAMINER KAU, STEVEN Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patent-ch@btlaw.com

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/872,612

**Applicant(s)**

BOESI, GIORGIO

**Examiner**

Steven Kau

**Art Unit**

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/1/2001</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on June 1, 2001 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi) (US 5,959,278) in view of Bossi (US 5,187,854), and further in view of Bulgrin et al (Bulgrin) (US 6,277,456).

Regarding claim 8.

Kobayashi discloses apparatus for printing coded markings on identification plates (Information card producing device of Figs 1 and 2), said apparatus comprising: first means (8) for positioning said card (3) (Kobayashi discloses Card Transfer Position or TRN to transfer plastic card in first turning position 40 confronting the first recording unit 20, and second turning position 50 confronting second recording unit 30 of Figs 2 and 6, col 7, lines 22-31); second

positioning means (9) (Ribbon shaped support in contact relationship against the surface to be printed of card or plate, Fig. 3) operating on a ribbon shaped support (6) bearing at least a layer of ink on at least one of its surfaces to place the ribbon shaped support (6) in approached relationship to the surface to be printed (3b) of the card (3) (Fig. 3, col 5, lines 65 through col 6, line 15); a heating unit (16) (e.g. Thermal Head 26 of Fig. 3) able to operate on the mutually approached surfaces of the ribbon shaped support (6) and of the card (3) to determine a transfer of the ink from the ribbon shaped support (6) to the card (3) (Figs. 3 & 6, col 5, lines 45 through col 6, line 32).

Kobayashi differs from claim 8, in that he does not expressly disclose printing coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment; and said plates (2) being mutually connected by means of frangible portions (2a, 2b) to form a substantially planar card (3), presenting a surface to be printed (3b) opposite to a base surface (3a).

Bossi teaches printing coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment (Figs 3, 7 and 8, col 2, lines 59 through col 3, line 64).

Bulgrin teaches said plates (2) being mutually connected by means of frangible portions (2a, 2b) to form a substantially planar card (3), presenting a surface to be printed (3b) opposite to a base surface (3a) (Figs 6 to 9, col 5, lines 56 through col 6, line 52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention first to have modified Kobabyshi to include printing coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment taught

by Bossi because it is essential to have all electrical cables and wiring been identified for electrical system installation, maintenance and repairing (col 1, lines 8-20, Bossi); then to have modified Kobabyshi to include said plates (2) being mutually connected by means of frangible portions (2a, 2b) to form a substantially planar card (3), presenting a surface to be printed (3b) opposite to a base surface (3a) taught by Bulgrin to reduce production cost by introduce one-piece labeling media for subject identification (col 2, lines 5-22, Bulgrin).

Regarding claim 12.

Kobabyshi discloses sensor (clock sensor 44b is formed from an optical sensor, col 8, line 37) means (17a) to detect the presence of at least an identification seal (17) associated to said card (3) and enable the operation of the heating unit (16) upon said detection (Kobabyshi discloses using sensor to accurately control feeding amount and speed of card transferred for thermal printing, col 8, lines 31-44).

Regarding claim 14.

Kobabayshi discloses wherein said heating unit comprises a print head (16) able to heat according to punctiform portions the mutually approached surfaces of said ribbon shaped support (6) and of said card (3), said ribbon shaped support (6) presenting at least a layer of ink uniformly distributed on at least one of its surfaces (Fig. 3, col 5, lines 65 through col 6, line 41).

Regarding claim 16.

Kobabayshi discloses wherein said ribbon shaped support (6) comprises at least two superficial portions bearing respectively different inks, said second

positioning means (9) being able to place said superficial portions individually and selectively in positions approached to the surface to be printed (3b) of the card (3) (col 5, lines 45-62).

Regarding claim 17.

Kobabayshi discloses wherein said peripheral printing unit (7) is an ink sublimation printing unit usable to print credit cards (col 5, lines 32-64).

Regarding claim 18.

Kobabayshi discloses that use of an ink sublimation printing unit (Recording Unit of Fig. 3), in particular of the type suitable for printing credit cards (Fig. 6, col 5, lines 45-64).

Kobabayshi differs from claim 18, in that he does not expressly disclose to print coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment.

Bossi teaches to print coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment (Figs 3, 7 and 8, col 2, lines 59 through col 3, line 64).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention first to have modified Kobabyshi to include printing coded marks on identification plates for cables and electrical equipment taught by Bossi because it is essential to have all electrical cables and wiring been identified for electrical system installation, maintenance and repairing (col 1, lines 8-20).

Regarding claim 1.

Claim 1 recites identical features as claim 8, except claim 1 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 8 are also equally applicable to claim 1.

Regarding claim 3.

Claim 12 recites identical features as claim 3, except claim 3 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 12 are also equally applicable to claim 3.

Regarding claim 5.

Claim 5 recites identical features as claim 14, except claim 5 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 14 are also equally applicable to claim 5.

Regarding claim 6.

Claim 6 recites identical features as claim 16, except claim 6 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 16 are also equally applicable to claim 6.

4. Claims 2 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi) (US 5,959,278) in view of Bossi (US 5,187,854), and further in view of Bulgrin et al (Bulgrin) (US 6,277,456) as applied to claims 1 and 8, and further in view of Hamada et al (Hamada) (US 5,184,907).

Regarding claim 9.

Kobayashi discloses wherein said card (3) is engaged to a support template (18) presenting a coupling side (18a) oriented towards the base surface (3a) of the card (3) itself and a substantially planar base side (18b).

Hamada teaches wherein said card (3) (e.g. inflexible sheet as a thick business card or a board, col 3, line 2) is engaged to a support template (18) (supporting plate 19 of Fig. 2) presenting a coupling side (18a) oriented towards the base surface (3a) of the card (3) itself and a substantially planar base side (18b) (Fig. 2, col 2, line 11-23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobayashi to include said card (3) is engaged to a support template (18) presenting a coupling side (18a) oriented towards the base surface (3a) of the card (3) itself and a substantially planar base side (18b) taught by Hamada to provide support for printing process (col 2, line 33-40).

Regarding claim 10.

Kobayashi differs from claim 10, in that he does not expressly disclose wherein said support template (18) presents housing seats (19) for respective engagement projections (5) protruding from the base surface (3a) of the card (3).

Hamada teaches wherein said support template (18) presents housing seats (19) for respective engagement projections (5) protruding from the base surface (3a) of the card (3) (col 2, lines 11-32).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobayashi to include said support



template (18) presents housing seats (19) for respective engagement projections (5) protruding from the base surface (3a) of the card (3) taught by Hamada to provide support for printing process (col 2, line 33-40).

Regarding claim 11.

Kobayashi differs from claim 11, in that he does not expressly disclose wherein said card (3) and said support template (18) present an overall thickness that is equal to a passage clearance (L) defined by first positioning means (8), through which the card (3) is driven together with the support template (18).

Hamada teaches wherein said card (3) and said support template (18) present an overall thickness that is equal to a passage clearance (L) defined by first positioning means (8), through which the card (3) is driven together with the support template (18) (col 2, lines 11-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobayashi to include said card (3) and said support template (18) present an overall thickness that is equal to a passage clearance (L) defined by first positioning means (8), through which the card (3) is driven together with the support template taught by Hamada to provide support for printing process (col 2, line 33-40).

Regarding claim 2.

Claim 2 recites identical features as claim 10, except claim 2 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 10 are also equally applicable to claim 2.

5. Claims 4 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi) (US 5,959,278) in view of Bossi (US 5,187,854), and further in view of Bulgrin et al (Bulgrin) (US 6,277,456) as applied to claims 3 and 12, and further in view of Ashley et al (Ashley) (US 6,484,780).

Regarding claim 13.

Kobabyshi differs from claim 13, in that he does not expressly disclose wherein said identification seal (17) is associated to a lot of cards (3), said sensor means (17a) being able to enable the operation of the heating unit (16) for the number of work cycles equal to the number of cards (3) contained in said lot.

Ashley teaches wherein said identification seal (17) is associated to a lot of cards (3), said sensor means (17a) being able to enable the operation of the heating unit (16) for the number of work cycles equal to the number of cards (3) contained in said lot (col 9, lines 7-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobabyshi to include said identification seal (17) is associated to a lot of cards (3), said sensor means (17a) being able to enable the operation of the heating unit (16) for the number of work cycles (e.g. debris cleaning cycles) equal to the number of cards (3) contained in said lot taught by Ashley to remove debris due to static charge and control number of cards produced (col 8, lines 62-67 and col 9, lines 22-27).

Regarding claim 4.

Claim 4 recites identical features as claim 13, except claim 4 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 13 are also equally applicable to claim 4.

6. Claims 7 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi 278) (US 5,959,278) in view of Bossi (US 5,187,854), and further in view of Bulgrin et al (Bulgrin) (US 6,277,456) as applied to claims 1 and 14, and further in view of Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi 220) (US 6,095,220).

Regarding claim 15.

Kobayashi 278 differs from claim Y, in that he does not expressly disclose wherein said first and second positioning means (8, 9) and said heating unit (16) are comprised in a peripheral printing unit (7) controlled by an electronic computer.

Kobayashi 220 teaches wherein said first and second positioning means (8, 9) and said heating unit (16) are comprised in a peripheral printing unit (7) controlled by an electronic computer Fig. 13, col 9, lines 12-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobayashi 278 to include said first and second positioning means (8, 9) and said heating unit (16) are comprised in a peripheral printing unit (7) controlled by an electronic computer taught by Kobayashi 220 to provide automatic control for printing process (col 9, lines 12-67).

Regarding claim 7.

Claim 7 recites identical features as claim 15, except claim 7 is a method claim. Thus, arguments similar to that presented above for claim 15 are also equally applicable to claim 7.

7. Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al (Kobayashi) (US 5,959,278) in view of Bossi (US 5,187,854), and further in view of Bulgrin et al (Bulgrin) (US 6,277,456) as applied to claim 8, and further in view of Harding et al (Harding) (US 5,649,774).

Regarding claim 19.

Kobabayshi discloses wherein said heating unit comprises a calendaring unit (such roller pairs 23 and 25 of Fig. 3, col 45-53).

Kobabayshi differs from claim 19, in that he does not expressly disclose that at least a heated roller able to act on said ribbon shaped support (6) coupled to the card (3).

Harding teaches that at least a heated roller able to act on said ribbon shaped support (6) coupled to the card (3) (col 9, lines 25-47).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Kobabayshi to include at least a heated roller able to act on said ribbon shaped support (6) coupled to the card (3) taught by Harding to control prints in localized area (col 9, lines 1-34).

Regarding claim 20.

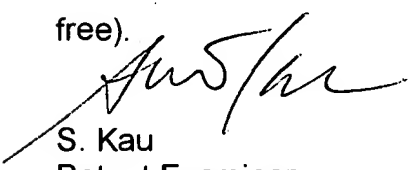
Kobabayshi discloses wherein said ribbon shaped support comprises at least one sheet bearing the coded marks to be printed on the plates (col 3, lines 23-39).

*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Kau whose telephone number is 571-270-1120 and fax number is 571-270-2120. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on 571-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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December 31, 2007



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